

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Dec.-Jan. 5 CITY BEAUTIFUL OF SAN DIEGO, INC. 7th Annual Poinsettia Display

Botanical Lath House, Balboa Park. 10-4:30 p.m. Tues.-Sun. except holidays. Free.

Jan. 7 GROSSMONT ADULT SCHOOL Gardening Class

Grossmont High School, Room 51, 1100 Murray Drive, La Mesa. Six-session class on "Drought Resistant Plants and Practices Using Less Water" taught by Betty Newton, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. twice a week, Tues. & Fri. \$17 plus text. Call 579-4790.

Jan. 10, CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC., ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT

11, & 12 Landscape Design Study Course II, Series XIII. Rose & Crown Pub & Restaurant, 647 Camino de los Mares, San Clemente. Program purpose is to teach good landscape architectural practice. \$40 for complete Course II. Call 714/492-5096 to register.

Jan. 14 THE HUNTINGTON "Personal Edens" Exhibition

-Jun. 1 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. The gardens & film sets (including the Tara landscape for "Gone with the Wind") of California landscape architect Florence Yoch will be presented in vintage photographs, sketchbooks from travels abroad, original drawings, & published articles on her five-decade career. Free. Call 818/405-2141.

Jan. 18 & 19 SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY "Mini" Show

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat.: 11-4:30 p.m.; Sun.: 10-4:30 p.m. Free.

Jan. 26 IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO Ikebana Exhibit

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. 11-4:30 p.m. Free.

Feb.-Apr. *SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Classes

Tuesdays Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Instruction in flower arranging, basketry, & the making of dried flower hat bands. For hours, room locations, & costs, call 298-5182 or 232-5762.

Feb. 1 & 2 SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY 45th Annual Show

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat.: 1-5 p.m.; Sun.: 10-4 p.m. Free.

Feb. 4 GROSSMONT ADULT SCHOOL Landscaping Classes

or Feb. 5

Tues. evenings 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.: Grossmont High School, Room 51, 1100 Murray Drive, La Mesa. Wed. mornings 9:00 - Noon: Foothills Adult Education Center, Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 17-week class on "Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs & Flowers" taught by Betty Newton. \$17. Call 579-4795.

Feb. 9 ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER Exhibit

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. 11-4:30 p.m. Free.

Feb. 15 & 16 SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY "Mini" Show

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat.: 12-4:30 p.m.; Sun.: 10-4:30 p.m. Free.

Feb. 18 *SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Quarterly Meeting & Program

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. 5:45 p.m. social hour & dinner. 7:15 p.m. meeting & program. "Orchids Easily Grown" will feature Genie Hammond of Parkview Orchids & Tom Biggart of Granite Hills Orchids, sharing secrets of their success with coastal growing & inland growing. \$4.50 members; \$5.50 non-members. Information & reservations: 232-5762.

Feb. 22 & 23 OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER 14th Annual Show

Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat.: 11-4:30 p.m.; Sun.: 10-4:30 p.m. Free.

Feb. 25 *SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Bus Trip to Taylor Herb Farm
Transportation, tour, classes, demonstrations, lunch. See page 30.

SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLETTICS CONTESTS.

Feb. 29 SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY 11th Annual Show

& Mar. 1 Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Sat.: 1-4 p.m.; Sun.; 10-4 p.m. Free.

Mar. 5 THE HUNTINGTON First Thursday Garden Talk & Plant Sale

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. "The Secret of Great Gardens" lecture will include slides of spectacular public & private gardens in Europe, England, & the United States. 2:30 p.m. Free. Call 818/405-2282.

(Continued on page 14)



Published by San Diego Floral Association for 82 Years

PUBLICATION STAFF EDITOR

EDITOR John J. Gagliardi

ASSISTANT EDITOR Lucy Warren

EDITOR EMERITUS Elizabeth Glover Allethe Macdonald

STAFF WRITERS
Penny Bunker
Nancy Cottingham
Mary Jordan
Lucy Warren

STAFF ARTIST

ADVERTISING Lynn Beyerle

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Manuscripts are invited. Deadline is 90-days prior to publication date. California Garden reserves the right to detit any and all submitted material. All manuscripts and illustrations submitted will be handled carefully but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. All submissions must be double spaced and accompanied by returned postage, if you expect them to be returned to you. Hortus Third is the authority for all botanical names used in this magazine. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the California Garden.

Send all editorial material and change of address to:

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Casa del Prado Room 105, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619



2 Horticultural Calendar

San Diego Floral Association Casa del Prado, Balboa Park San Diego, CA 92101-1619 Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 12 and 1 to 3 p.m. 619/232-5762

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Marji Huntington, a free lance illustrator, contributed the cover illustration. Drawn from show quality blossoms grown by local hybridizer Les Bakerville, the white camellia at the upper right is Harvey Short's "Finale." The camellia to the lower left is the red and white "Miss Tulare." Ms. Huntington is at 483-5123.

This issue of the California Garden Magazine edited by Lucy Warren.

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact California Garden, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your next show.

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The San Diego County Orchid Society Presents

ORCHIDS... MYTH & MYSTERY

The 46th Annual



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BARE ROOT: START WITH ROOTS AND TWIGS

Lucy Warren

TRUE GARDENERS ARE eternal optimists who have faith in potential and who see beauty in the raw. This time of year they are scouring catalogs and nurseries for the blossoms and fruits of the coming summer. Their "ugly duckling" seeds and twigs will soon enough become beautiful swans in the garden. Even now they are seeking the bare root stocks of deciduous fruit and shade trees, berries and roses at which non-gardeners would scoff in disbelief that such meager fare could ever survive, much less flourish.

What could ever be so appealing about some bare twigs whose roots may be bound in a little damp sawdust? During the winter the deciduous plants are dormant, in their resting phase of little to no growth. This means that the plants literally can be uprooted and transplanted with minimal damage. While the roots should never dry out completely, they need very little attention at this time. While most dormant plants lose their leaves, some plants are deceiving. Camellias, for example, are dormant during their blossoming phase.

Why buy bare root plants? The plants without pots are easier to transport, certainly less weighty, and do not need labor intensive maintenance. Not only are bare root plants less expensive, there is also a more extensive selection of varieties.

Bare root selections planted in mid-winter have advantages over other plants of similar varieties in that they have the opportunity to adjust to their new permanent environment long before their primary growing season. If you can't plant the new bare root stock immediately, be sure to keep the roots damp (but not soaking) by wrapping them in moistened soil, peat moss, sawdust, or sand. Most will appreciate a good soaking before they are planted...place the roots in a bucket of water for several hours up to overnight.

When you are ready to plant, dig a big enough hole to be able to spread out the roots so they do not have to be bent to fit in the hole. Mix the soil from the hole with amendments suitable to the species. (I add about half potting soil to aerate and lighten my heavy clay soil.) Make a cone of the mixture in the bottom of the hole, then place the plant on the cone, spreading the roots outward and downward. Use the remainder of the soil to fill the hole up to the union of the roots and stem or trunk. Pack the soil and water immediately and thoroughly.

Come spring, you will be a jump ahead of your neighbors and your plants will have a healthy, established root base from which to grow.

LUCY WARREN writes and edits for California Garden.

Some Bare Root Plants for Southern California*

Cane Fruits

Blackberry Boysenberry Loganberry Raspberry Strawberry

Fruit Trees

Apple Apricot Cherry Pear Persimmon Plum Pomegranate

Crabapple Fig

Peach

Nut Trees

Almond Pecan Walnut

Prune

Other Trees

Ash Alder Birch Flowering Plum Locust Poplar Sycamore Willow

Roses

All Types including:

Climbing

New award winners

Standards Old favorites

Vegetables

Artichoke Asparagus Rhubarb

Vines

Grape

Wisteria

* Climate and soil conditions will vary. Consult your local nursery regarding the success of your selection in your particular area.

CONSIDER DWARF FRUIT TREES

Elaine Thompson

AS WINTER APPROACHES, it is time to think ahead to what you want to enjoy in the garden of your dreams.

One of the most practical things to do is consider what will be available in the upcoming bare root season. The most common plants we find in bare root are fruit trees, both dwarf and standard, and roses. They have a common need for a place in full sun and a planting area that drains well and has a good portion of humus in the soil. Whether you wish to try one of the new roses or to just replace a rose that does not do well in your area, now is the time to pick the spot and remove any existing plants.

Fruit trees are becoming more and more popular. A little investigation will help you choose the right tree and give you the desired results. Too often, fruit trees are discarded as suitable trees for the home landscape as not enough is known about them. Dwarf trees can be grown in containers for those who are short on space. The fruit is the same size and flavor as that on the larger trees, there just is not as much of it. For the smaller family or the family with no room for freezing or canning, the dwarf fruit tree can be a blessing. Also, their decorative qualities should not be disregarded. The fruit, and the flowers that precede it are just as decorative as those on any other plant.

What makes a tree the right choice? The first consideration should be given to selecting a tree variety that will bear well in your area of the state with your hours of chilling time. A good nursery will stock trees that will produce fruit in your climate area. Good catalogs also include appropriate climate zones for each variety.

Many fruit trees are self-fertile and do not need a second tree to pollinate. If a second tree is needed, consider a method of planting that allows you to plant up to three varieties of the same tree in one hole. Select these varieties for the blooming time - early, mid-season and late. This way your harvest time and enjoyment of the fruit is extended over a longer period of time and you do not have to contend with all three producing fruit at the same time. The planting hole must be large enough to hold the three trees and the soil well prepared with humus and slow release fertilizer. For exact planting instructions, ask your nurseryman.

ELAINE THOMPSON is Publications Director for the California Association of Nurserymen.

CORRECTIONS

WE APOLOGIZE for not listing Carol Greentree as author of the "Profile of the Dragon Tree" in the November-December issue of California Garden, page 173. Carol has her degree from California State Polytechnic Institute in ornamental horticulture and is a garden writer and photographer.

In converting our file to an abbreviated format, to accommodate our annual index, we inadvertently left out some affiliates in the listing of "Club and Professional Affiliates" in the November-December issue, page 187. We apologize.

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THE SHOW GOES ON EARLY DAYS OF THE SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Edalee Harwell

BY THE END OF World War II Camellia japonica had been widely planted here. And for some homeowners, growing camellias to perfection and having as many of the remarkedly varied cultivars as possible became a passion.

Many of these gardeners knew each other and on the evening of November 10, 1945 J. W. Sefton, president of San Diego Trust and Savings Bank and owner of a beautiful camellia garden, invited 24 camellia lovers to meet in the bank's elegant board room. The new San Diego Camellia Society took shape and that night received a charter as an affiliate of the Southern Camellia Society from Thor Peterson of that organization.

Sefton was elected president, Lucien Atheron, viceresident and Clarisse Carlton, secretary-treasurer. The latter post was later divided and Stanley Miller became treasurer. Dr. L.H. Redelings, E.W. Miller and A.P. Carlton were made directors.

The group was three years old when, in January of 1948, members voted to put on their first show. The site would be the American Legion Hall on Fairmont Avenue in East San Diego. The February 8th date suggested a Valentine's Day theme.

By opening hour the hall had been transformed with huge hearts—red ones decorated with white camellias and white ones with red camellias—framed in greenery. Sunday, show day, dawned bitterly cold, but by the end of the day when everything had been dismantled, the show had obviously been a success. With an admission fee of only twenty-five cents, proceeds topped \$200!

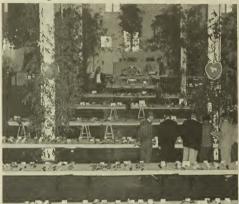
At this first show, Best In Show award went to a "Glen 40" (a rich, red, formal, double camellia cultivar, still popular) grown by Alice and Stanley Miller. In addition to tables of beautiful, prize-winning cut blossoms, the show included demonstrations in corsage making and decorated hats.

"Mysteries of the Orient" was the theme of another early show and in addition to camellias, leafy bamboo surrounded the hall's pillars.

The Stanley Miller family went on to win numerous awards over the years and served the society in many capacities. Stanley was noted for his carvings of camellia wood, and his late wife Alice conceived and edited *Camellia Bulletin*. Miller is the last remaining charter member in the society. He no longer enters show flowers, but boxes of his blooms (from tree-sized

camellias in his El Cajon garden) supply tables for the still popular camellia wax-dipping demonstration and sale.

The old Floral Building in Balboa Park proved too small for the crowds that packed in to see the second annual show. The theme was "Jewels of the Garden," and softly-colored clouds of spun glass floated above silver foliage banked with camellias.



Early San Diego Camellia Show

The show venue has changed many times over the years. The society used Balboa Park's Federal Building, Electric Building and Conference Hall and most recently the large show room of Casa del Prado. In the Conference Hall there was finally room for judged flower arrangements, as well as a class for local professionals to construct miniature gardens around flowering camellia plants. Charter 'member Harvey Short masterminded many of the early shows after retiring from Huntington Gardens.

Before 1940 nomenclature was chaotic with three or more names for a cultivar. In the early days camellias were often classified and shown according to form and color only. Then William Woodroof of Hollywood Garden Supply Company began to edit *Camellia Nomenclature* which, regularly updated, is now the accepted worldwide standard reference.

The young San Diego Camellia Society meetings featured Woodroof and others well known in the camellia world such as Dr. Walter Lammerts, University of California, and hobbyist Ralph Peer of Los Angeles.



Stanley Miller, a charter member

Photo by Betty Newton

Lammerts and Peer were pivotal in importing the first *Reticulata* camellias from China (1948) with their promise of larger flowers. Howard Asper, who introduced some of the earliest hybrid Reticulatas, spoke of the early days of Rancho Descanso (now Descanso Gardens) which he designed and managed.

Another speaker forty years ago was Miss Alice Rainford, a protege of Kate Sessions, who had worked in her flower shop. Later she bought the shop and Rainford Florists became a name familiar in San Diego history.

Shows and meetings were not the Society's only activities. In 1950 the Balboa Park Camellia Garden was begun. Along the edge of the canyon behind what is now the Cafe del Rey Morro, the group initially planted 53 plants of 38 camellia varieties. The plants were donated by local members, nurseries, and enthusiasts from as far north as Los Angeles and Pasadena. By 1951 there were 486 plants of 232 varieties and 93 seedlings in the ground, planted and maintained by the Society with cooperation of the Park Department.

Many of those camellias are alive today, glossy, green and stout, though some labeled specimens were stolen.

The San Diego Camellia Society will present its 45th annual show February 1 and 2, 1992 in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Entries will be accepted from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. Saturday. Anyone can enter. Find out how by attending the non-judged camellia minishow and plant sale January 18 and 19 in the same room. Both shows are open to the public. Following judging, the big February show will be open from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Afterward, members of the San Diego Camellia Society will take down the show again—joined together both in friendship and in their love of the flower.

EDALEE HARWELL is Secretary of the San Diego Camellia Society, and is employed at the San Diego Zoo.

CAMELLIA FLOWER FORMS





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NEW BLACKBERRIES

Joyce Gemmell with Betty Newton

BLACKBERRIES GROW best where summers are cool and slightly humid, but there are varieties suited to most every microclimate of the West. Success with such caneberries depends on selecting the variety best for your area.

Blackberries grow wild in many parts of the United States. Crosses of different wild species in the genus *Rubus* create hybrids. Loganberries, for instance, are a cross between a red raspberry and a wild California blackberry.

Breeding of better varieties, ones with thornless and erect canes, bigger fruit, better flavor and yield, has been slow. Southern California's most frequently-grown blackberries, 'Olallie' and 'Boysen' were introduced back in the Fifties and Thirties.

Ironically, the Boysenberry, developed in Buena Park by Walter Knott, grows better in the Williamette and San Joaquin Valleys than in Southern California.

Local berry enthusiasts are hoping for good performance from new varieties from the University of

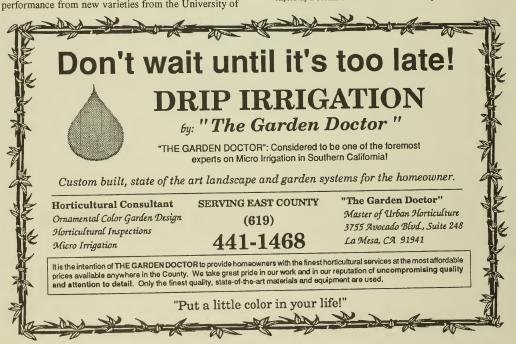
Arkansas now being introduced. Backyard results here over the next few years will prove or disprove these berries' local suitability. Whereas they may not accept our semi-arid climate, low winter chill, alkaline water and occasional alkaline soils, you may find a winner.

VARIETIES AND AVAILABILITY:
Olallie - medium early, productive, trailing, thorny.
Cherokee - early, large fruit, erect canes, thorny.

Cheyenne - large fruit, erect habit, thorny. Shawnee - large fruit, high yield, erect habit. All above available at Pacific Tree Farms, 4301 Lynwood Drive, Chula Vista, CA 91910. Navajo - erect, self-supporting, thornless. Ison's Nursery and Vineyard, Brooks, GA 30205.

Waldo - thornless, high yield. Northwoods Nursery, 28606 S. Cramer Rd., Molalla, OR 97038.

JOYCE GEMMELL AND BETTY NEWTON teach vegetable gardening and landscaping respectively at Foothills Adult Education Center in El Cajon.



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FLORIADE 1992 - HOLLAND THE GREATEST FLOWER SHOW ON EARTH

Tineke Wilders

ONCE EVERY TEN years, Holland shows off the very best of its horticultural achievements in a huge international exhibition called Floriade. Millions of visitors, from every corner of the world, flock to this tiny country to admire the beautiful parklands and theme gardens, planted with millions of bulbs, trees, plants, vegetables and fruit. Indoor exhibition halls are transformed by creative hands into a tropical paradise.

This famous event stretches over three growing seasons; a total of 26 weeks, opening on April 15 continuing until October 11, highlighting millions of

bulbs, followed by summer bloomers and crops, culminating in a glorious Fall display.

What makes this event so special? I must first admit that I am biased, having been born and raised in Holland. gardening is the number one leisure activity and represents one of the largest export industries. Holland has established itself as a trend-setter in the horticultural field. It is most known for its bulb production - the ideal climate and sandy soil make a perfect cradle for millions of bulb flowers that are shipped all over the world each year.

New hybrids are regularly Keukenhoff Gardens added to an extensive list, but it takes at least seven years before a hybridizer knows he has a flowering winner, and another few years before they are available for export. Scheduling the Floriade every decade enables the world to share the latest developments in the field of horticulture. Sixteen other countries are being featured at the Floriade: Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Indonesia, Kenya, Japan, Poland, Russia, Thailand and the United States. More may be added by the opening date

Cities bid to host the Floriade. Amsterdam had the honor of hosting the first Floriade in 1962, adding a permanent public park to existing green spaces in which Holland is so richly endowed. Zoetermeer, just outside of the Hague, is offering the 1992 facilities. Site preparation began right after the last Floriade in 1982.

At Zoetermeer, a 200-acre site has been subdivided into several theme areas, which include indoor pavilions, each focuses on a special horticultural theme: transport, production, consumer, environment, recreation, the world, and the future. When I visited the Floriade '92 site last summer, many trees had been planted as well as thousands of spring-flowering bulbs. I can't wait to see the result of such intense and timely planning and planting.

The outside gardens are quite spectacular. Their layout is based on the classical form of a triangle, the

> so-called 'Patte d'Oie' (goosefoot). World-famous 16th and 17th century garden masterpieces of Versailles and Hampton Court inspired the contemporary Floriade design as trend-setting landscaping architecture of the 21st century.

Its 14,000 square meter exhibition hall will have permanent displays, and will hold 13 magnificent exhibitions in succession. It will be transformed into an oasis of bulb and bulbous plants, potted plants, orchids, roses, perennials, lilies, trees and fruits. Cultural events and art shows will be held at a Photo by Lucy Warren specially built amphitheater.



A 76 meter-high observation tower, with a rotating segment, will give visitors a spectacular bird's-eye view of the Floriade grounds and the southern part of Holland. A monorail will carry millions of visitors from one exhibition to the next. Many cafes and restaurants will provide relaxation, rest and nourishment for visitors

A visit to the Floriade '92 will be an exceptional and inspirational experience for everyone, young and old, not only for the surrounding beauty, but also to see world developments in gardening. It is like travelling to many different countries, all situated on 200 acres.

TINEKE WILDERS is a garden writer and will personally escort five tours to the Floriade. For further information and details, send a self-addressed business-sized envelope with a 52 cent stamp to: Alice Hegrat, P. O. Box 28697, San Diego, CA 92128, or call 619/487-4096.

WARFARE ON ASH WHITEFLY

California Department of Food and Agriculture

THE "GOOD BUG" released last year to start biological warfare on ash whitefly looks like it is doing a great job, according to scientists from the Department of Food and Agriculture. California has been subject to several newly introduced species of whitefly playing havoc with horticulture. The ash whitefly prevs primarily on trees and shrubs.

"We have been lucky, getting this particular wasp for our first biological control organism," said Larry Bezark, biocontrol manager for the CDFA's ash whitefly program. "The progress so far is very encouraging, and if it continues at this pace, we should be able to see significant reductions in ash whitefly populations in a few years. We released the first parasites last year, and they have overwintered successfully. We have even found them at sites where the temperature dropped as low as 25 degrees during the winter."

The good bug, one of the Encarsia species, is a speck-sized insect that lays its eggs in immature ash whiteflies, killing the pests before they develop. Largescale releases have been made in 25 California counties.

Biological control is the use of beneficial organisms to control pests. In Europe and other areas where the ash whitefly is established, it is kept under control by natural enemies. No natural enemies of ash whitefly have been found in California.

Research is continuing at UCR under the direction of Dr. Tom Bellows on a second ash whitefly natural enemy, a ladybird beetle. Bezark indicated that they hope to bring in another wasp from Southern Europe, as well. It is expected that more than one natural enemy will be required to bring the ash whitefly population under control.

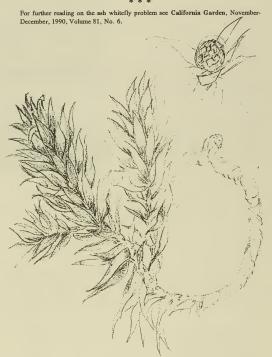
Adult ash whiteflies are pinhead-sized, whitish, winged insects. They inflict damage by attaching

THANK YOU

To all of our affiliates, the wonderful staff at Balboa Park, Floral members, individuals, and companies for making A Splendor of Trees such a dazzling success at Christmas on the Prado.

themselves to the undersides of leaves and sucking plant juices. They also excrete a sticky substance that promotes the growth of black sooty mold. They infest many kinds of trees and shrubs, including apple, apricot, ash, citrus, crape myrtle, lilac, loquat, pear, plum, pomegranate, privet and pyracantha.

Although most trees can withstand infestations for two years or more, ash whitefly has presented a nuisance value unparalleled in the memories of city dwellers. Homeowners with infested trees should provide adequate amounts of water and fertilizer. Ash whiteflies stress trees by removing fluids and sugars. The tree will do better if other types of stress are reduced. Adjust pruning, fertilization, and watering to minimize stress on the tree.



LEUCODENDRON argenteum or silver tree is a part of the Proteaceae family. This South African native grows to 30 feet and has beautiful silvery foliage. Quail Gardens displays several. Illustration by Marji Huntington.

ON WATERING AND SOIL AMENDMENTS

Mort Brigadier

WATERING DEPENDS on many factors. Drip irrigation uses less water only because it applies the water directly to the feeder roots. The plant itself needs the same amount of water no matter how it is watered. There are no formulae that determine water need by considering canopy size, trunk size, square foot of the area and the type of soil that lies underfoot.

It is almost impossible to determine soil structure with housing developments bulldozed out of hillsides and with the soil being heavily compacted with tons of water and by giant rollers. The native soil may lie beneath the fill too far to be of significance. The amount of water needed for irrigation is often difficult to compute by formulae but can usually be determined by a simple method of trial and error, if the soil is "reasonable."

For example: First, water the soil until it is wet to a depth of at least 12 inches. (That's where most of the feeder roots are found) Use a probe or shovel to "see" if the soil is wet or dry. Record how long it takes to wet the soil to 12 inches. This establishes how long to water.

Secondly, do not water again until the soil is dry to

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12 inches. Even if the soil "looks dry," but still holds water at a depth of 12 inches, do not water. Note how long it takes, under normal weather conditions, for the water to be used up and the ground to dry out. This establishes the irrigation interval.

Finally, look for signs of stress or wilt and fine tune the watering schedule.

WHAT ABOUT SOIL AMENDMENTS?

There are only two kinds of soil in San Diego County. "Reasonable" and "Unreasonable."

Reasonable soils are those that have an acceptable water holding capacity and can be watered by the trial and error method.

Unreasonable soils are those that either hold too much water, as in clay, or the water disappears as fast as it is applied, as in sand or DG (decomposed granite). The choice with these soils is to either plant above ground in raised beds, or to amend the soil with organic material.

Vermiculite, perlite, peat moss and sand are used in plant propagation and for container planting. They are also used, in various combinations, as a soil-less growing medium in raised beds, as in "Square Foot," or "French-intensive" gardening. They are mainly used as a poor substitute for compost. So-called redwood compost is not composted at all, but simply ground-up redwood chips that should probably be composted before using.

The only limits on soil amendment are cost, time and labor. Even a loam can be improved by adding compost to replace the organic material as it is used up to nourish the plants. With clay, sand, or DG, we are advised that these soils be amended with organic materials.

CALL THE MASTER GARDENER

Readers of *California Garden* can call the Master Gardener for any horticulture question and have it answered immediately or researched for later call-back. The Master Gardener service is part of the University of California's Cooperative Extension, (sometimes called the Farm Advisor), and is staffed by trained volunteers, many of whom contribute valuable articles to this publication. These volunteers are reinforced by a professional staff of UCCE Advisors. For horticulture information, and before buying or using any pesticide, insecticide or chemical, call the Master Gardener at 619-694-2860, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.

MORT BRIGADIER is a Master Gardener and is a frequent contributor to California Garden magazine.

Horticultural Calendar (Con't)

U. C. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION San Diego Home Gardening Seminar Mar. 14

5555 Overland Avenue, Bldg. 4, San Diego 92123. Classes on flowers, fruits & vegetables, landscaping, & water conservation. Pre-registration required by March 6. \$22. Call 694-2845.

*SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION Bus Trip to Santa Barbara Visits to gardens & nurseries. See page 30.

SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN Bus Tour of Old South Mar. 26

1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara 93105-2199. Focus on gardens & springtime flowers.

Call 805/563-2521 weekdays between 9 a.m. & 1 p.m.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Trip to Hawaii May 15-24

Naturalist-led expedition to islands of Hawaii & Kauai to learn about the ecology, geology, bird &

plant life, & cultural heritage. Call Sandy Kuntz, 232-3821, or Carla Munt, 800/252-4910.

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OFFSHOOT TOURS One-Hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park beginning Jan. 18 Every

Meet in front of Botanical Lath House. Canceled for rain or less than 4 attendees. 1st Sat. History Saturday

Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Sample of all four

tours. 10:00 a.m. Free. No reservations.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Mar./Apr. issue is January 15, 1992. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes in information which has been submitted by the organizations.









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PLANT SENSE

Robert D. Horwitz

PLANTS HAVE MORE SENSE than people give them credit for. They have adapted over the millions of years to the conditions that will optimize their survival. In comparison with animal sensing capability, plant sense may seem pretty simple, but it is very effective. The major elements that plant sense are:

Phototropism — This sense is what the plant uses to influence growth. It is a measure of the amount of light available which in turn stimulates the action of hormones which in turn cause growth to be stimulated in the direction from which the light comes.

Geotropism — This simply means that the plant can sense which way is up. It is essential that the plant reach as much light as it needs for good growth, so seeking the vertical allows this to occur. You may have noticed that a plant in a pot that has lain on its side for a period of time will bend its main stem and branches toward the vertical. There have been many experiments made aboard orbiting space craft where there is no gravity to examine how the growth patterns of plants are affected.



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4301 Lynnwood Dr., Chula Vista 92010 (619) 422-2400 Photoperiodism — This response is also a light initiated action of the plant and is surprisingly accurate. Plants will initiate when to flower, grow seeds, and start to grow or turn dormant based on the ratio of light to dark. Commercial growers have made good use in the understanding of this light phenomenon by fooling the plants into thinking that it is the season to flower or seed by providing artificial light or depriving the plant of light to make the attributes of the plants available all year around.

Touch — Here is a sensory capability which plants use to good effect in climbing and twining around a support. The twining stem will sense the touch of the support which in turn stimulates cell growth on the opposite side of the stem. This unequal growth causes the stem to curl and the curling will take place around or against its support. This sense touch will also stimulate the growth of clinging elements of climbing plants such as ivy so that it can attach itself to a support medium. Another and more exotic use of the sense of touch is in the insect eating plants such as the Venus Flytrap. The stimulation of the struggling insect causes the leaves to close, trapping the insect in order to be devoured. Certain other plants like the Mimosa will close their leaves together if the leaves are touched.

Temperature — This sensing ability together with the sense of light-dark ratio tell the plant what season it is. In this way, it will not waste its energy growing at the wrong time of the year and either have to go dormant because of weather conditions being awry or die because it could not grow properly. This phenomenon is also used by commercial growers to get plants to ignore the natural seasons and respond to the artificial ones provided for them.

Humidity — To insure that there is enough moisture to sustain the sprouting of seeds into full plants and to protect the main growing elements such as basic roots, stems and leaves the plant senses over a period of time the water that is and will be available to it.

The physiology and chemistry that takes place when a plant senses its environment is quite complex and interactive. There are many other more subtle sensory capabilities that plants have which help them survive. Annuals and perennials, in particular, have different sets of sensations, making them all the more interesting.

ROBERT D. HORWITZ ia a retired aerospace engineer, a gardener, and a frequent contributor to California Garden magazine.

TRY AN HERB GARDEN

Martha Rosenberg



Illustration courtesy of Shepherd's Garden Seeds

SINCE MOST HERBS came, originally, from the Mediterranean area, they feel right at home in our Southern California climate. So they are easy to grow! Many of them will grow in pots indoors or outdoors. But, if you can possibly find a patch of ground, plant them there. The herbs will be happier and so will you.

Herbs planted in the ground require a minimum of attention. They need sun and good drainage. They are rarely bothered by disease or insects. A light dose of high nitrogen fertilizer in the spring will probably give them a boost, but is not absolutely necessary. On the other hand, potted herbs need regular feeding and frequent watering.

I guess it depends on why you are growing herbs - and for this article we are growing them in a garden. Do you want to grow a beautiful garden as a "show piece" with clipped hedges and borders and a formal design? Or are you more interested in cooking with herbs - or perhaps growing the fragrant ones for sachets and potpourris?

If it's the beautiful formal garden you want, you will fertilize your plants lightly but regularly with an all purpose fertilizer that is heavy on the nitrogen. If you want taste or fragrance go light on fertilizing, or do none at all.

Every four or five years I replant. All the old plants are tossed out except the rosemary, lemon verbena, and some of the lavender. The ground is rototilled or dug by hand and well-rotted manure is dug in and watered well about two weeks before setting out the new plants.

This is done, usually, the last of April or first of May. The herb garden in Old Town is in a rather cool area, so my planting may be a little later than yours. Just remember it does no good to set out new plants before the ground warms up.

While there is no real dormant season in a Southern California herb garden, there are two herbs that will die back in the Fall and come out again in the Spring - even here - tarragon and lovage. And the lemon verbena will lose its leaves.

Otherwise, your herb garden will look very much the same in the Fall and Winter as it did in the Spring and Summer. But it will be resting instead of growing. I do little or no cutting from November through February. Of course, that doesn't count the occasional swipe for a stew or salad!

Just keep the weeds out, water occasionally, sow a few seeds of calendula and valerian for color, and your herb garden will look good, even while resting.

MARTHA ROSENBERG is on the Board of Directors for docents at Old Town. She is known as "the herb lady" because she cares for the herb garden in Old Town. She has also taught flower arranging and basket classes for SDFA for 25 years.

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BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

PROTECT plants exposed to heavy rains, especially rhizomatous and semi-tuber types growing in containers. ADD more potting mix to keep roots covered where soil may be washed out of pots.

WATCH watering program; less water is needed at this time due to slower growth. Do not allow plants to become too dry or wet.

KEEP plants clean; remove old and dead foliage. SPRAY for mildew.

CONTROL slugs, snails, mealybugs and loopers.

START tuberous types in February for summer bloom. START cutting back lightly on cane and shrub types toward the end of February, about Washington's birthday.

BONSAL

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

REMEMBER not to over water. Protect plants from too much moisture in a rainy period; they need less during this slower growth period. Do not allow plants to dry out.

WATCH for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

USE a dormant spray such as a copper-oil or limesulphur mixture, particularly on maples, quince and other deciduous trees after they have been pruned.

GRAFT conifers during January and deciduous trees in February.

OBSERVE deciduous trees carefully. If there is warm weather in late February, keep the trees in shade so they will not start sprouting and blooming too early.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures. It helps to keep them about two to three feet above the ground. Cover with sheets, newspaper, etc. or bring them indoors.

BE CAREFUL not to place plants in front of a heating vent or drafty area.

REMEMBER to spray foliage two or three times a week when plants are kept indoors. Change water from center cups about once a week to keep it from becoming stagnant.

DO NOT water the soil until it is almost dry.

ALWAYS provide good drainage and never allow the soil to be soggy.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS

Joseph Betzler

REMEMBER to rest those winter dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer. As it gets cold, water in the early part of a sunny day; if it looks like rain, hold off on the water. This allows water to evaporate and fungi will not start as

PROTECT outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Do not forget to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.

WATCH new cuttings - they may not root as fast. If you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

KEEP an eye on the seedings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings - use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

CLEAN up those old pots and pick up the last of the leaves and other debris. Straighten up the collection, you do not want to encourage mice and the friendly roof rat. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.

NOTE those plants you want to propagate the next growing season and find out how to make new starts. Find out more about winter-growing succulents so that next year you may have additions to your collections. Plan your spring display now.

CAMELLIAS

E.C. Snooks

MAINTAIN a regular watering schedule to supplement periods between rains; plants must be kept moist but NOT wet.

CHOOSE and plant camellias while they are in bloom. KEEP plants clean and pick up all blooms to prevent petal blight.





1992

TOUR DEPARTS SAN DIEGO MAY 14th,1992 VISITING HOLLAND, BELGIUM AND FRANCE!

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MAKE grafts.

TRANSPLANT camellias; do not fertilize newly transplanted plants.

* * *

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

START in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus and fumigate. Two or three weeks before planting, dig in humus and equal parts of superphosphate and sulphate of potash and turn well. Use ratio of 2½ pounds for each 100 square feet of soil. DIG those tubers left in the ground. By early January the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

STORE tubers without dividing; leave on any soil that clings to tubers. Store in vermiculite or sand and keep in a cool area.

Inspect those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling; if too dry, add a little moisture.

SELECT some roots to sprout in February. Bottom heat can be applied to encourage sprouting.

EPIPHYLLUMS

TAKE advantage of beneficial rains - collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

PROTECT plants from unexpected frost and strong wintry winds.

BAIT for snails and slugs

SPRAY insecticides only if necessary - do not use oilbase types. Use Orthene, Malathion and Cygon available locally. Read and follow directions carefully. PRUNE out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

FEED mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring - use liquid or slow-release granules; another application may be necessary in about 30 days.

...

FERNS

Ray Sodomka

WATER if needed, do not rely on rains for sufficient moisture.

CHECK any hidden or covered plants to see that they get water if needed.

TRIM off fronds in frost-free areas.

PLANT spores.

SPRAY for aphids - especially on maiden-hair ferns.

KEEP after slugs, pill bugs (sow bugs), etc.; cold weather does not stop them.

FERTILIZE platyceriums (staghorns), give bone meal, hoof and horn or a high nitrogen liquid.

TAKE "pup" from platyceriums and mount.

REPOT, re-basket and divide ferns in frost-free area.

CHECK for spider mites on underside of fronds. Spray

with Malathion or miticide.

COVER and protect plants during the night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper, sheets or plastic bags. Place in garage if necessary.

FUCHSIAS

PRUNE, if you haven't already - do after danger of frost is over. Prune when soil is moist.

CLEAN all spent blossoms, berries, leaves and trash from around, in, and under all plants and containers.

PRUNE heavily, leaving strong stems about one-half-inch ahead of a node.

POT up cuttings taken when pruning is done; do not fertilize them for at least two weeks.

FERTILIZE those plants cut back 60-90 days before; new growth needs food.

USE insecticides or fungicides if there are problems.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to keep plants growing well.

CONTINUE a pest control and disease prevention program, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

PRUNE any plants which have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scenteds and similar types. Lanky plants which were pruned earlier can be cut back again to produce more compact plants. Tip pinch other plants which were pruned in the fall.

MAKE cuttings from the prunings. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

PROTECT plants from freezing temperatures. Temporary covering may be used. Containerized plants may be moved to a sheltered location.

CONTINUE to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

IRIS

San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

MAKE last planting of bulbous iris for spring bloom.

CONTINUE a watering program, especially if rains are light

START a regular spray program for rust with copper

ESTABLISH a regular program of snail, slug and aphid control.

KEEP old brown fans cut off of tall-bearded iris; good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control. **START** in February to feed all iris with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer—follow directions and do not over fertilize.

NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

REMEMBER to supplement winter rains with deep watering. The roots of natives are growing vigorously this time of year.

PLANT all but the most sensitive of the natives. If you want *Romneya*, *Dendromecon*, *Trichostema* or *Fremontodendron*, it would be better to wait until next fall. The rest of the natives can usually be planted successfully at least through April.

CHECK oaks and toyons for mildew. Spray with a fungicide if necessary. Check *Ceanothus* for mealybugs. Mealybug Destroyer will take care of them if you can control the ants. Otherwise Safers Soap would be the mildest control available.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

CHECK the moisture in pots of outdoor-growing orchids, including cymbidiums under cover to protect them from the cold rains and possible hail damage

CONTINUE staking and grooming cymbidium's flower spikes.

USE low-nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not feed if overcast.

KEEP mobile-type dendrobiums on the dry side. Watch for the swelling of nodes for flower production; then move them where it is warmer.

REMEMBER phals should be spiking; and <u>if</u> moving the plant, place it in the same general direction and area so flower will bloom in a uniform manner.

WATCH closely for slugs and snails; these pests are coming out of hibernation and proliferating after the rains. Granules of 7.5 percent metaldehyde is an excellent bait and does not attract children or pets and does not leave a mess.

WATER early in the morning so crowns will be dry by nightfall.

BE AWARE of any sudden temperature drops in outlying areas.

ROSES

FINISH all major pruning; follow with a garden cleanup and dormant spraying of bushes and surrounding areas. PRUNE bushes by removing all dead and diseased wood. Remove weak twiggy growth and one-third to two-thirds of the old wood, depending on the variety of rose - certain roses, including Peace, Royal Highness, Garden party and Brandy, do not tolerate severe pruning. Do not use pruning paint as it might do more harm than good.

PLANT bare root roses. Trim off any broken roots and canes.

FIRM the soil between the roots in a prepared hole of planter mix and garden soil. Be sure the rose is settled on a cone with the roots spread over it, leaving the bush union above the soil level.

FILL area gently but firmly with soil and water well. To prevent dehydration mound each bush with damp mulch material until new growth starts. Be sure to keep damp.

FEED established roses as new growth starts, give one cup per bush. Give newly planted bushes a liquid fertilizer six weeks after planting.

START preventative spraying in February for mildew and aphids, using $\frac{1}{2}$ strength on new foliage.

 $\ensuremath{\mathbf{ADD}}$ iron chelates after roots start growing. Iron can be absorbed by new roots.

ESTABLISH a regular watering and spraying schedule.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

START planting gladiolus bulbs; make successive plantings at monthly intervals for continuing bloom.

PLANT bare root trees.

PRUNE flowering trees and shrubs to shape the plant and use the flowers in arrangements.

CUT chrysanthemums back to the ground.

PLANT hybrid amaryllis bulbs with the tip of the nose showing.

TRANSPLANT evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs.

DORMANT spray the trees now.

PRUNE hydrangeas now.

CONTINUE to bait for slugs and snails.

THE BEET

Diane Windisch

BEETS ARE SIMILAR to people with eccentric behavior. They both evoke strong feelings of love or hate. People either passionately love beets or will not eat them. It is unusual that a round red root creates such diverse emotions. Easy to grow from seed, beet roots have a subtle, earthy flavor when cooked fresh from the garden. Beet foliage is a gourmet delight commonly called beet greens. Beet greens contain healthy portions of iron, potassium and Vitamin A. Beets easily fit into small space gardens for nutritious greens and fresh roots. Adaptable, tasty beets are a vegetable for novice and experienced gardeners.

The ancestor of today's rosy beet was a tough, white root grown for its leaves. The ancients ground the root for use as an ingredient in bone salve. Lucius Apuleius, a Roman philosopher and satirist of the second century A.D. wrote that beets were a remedy for snakebite. Although the beet roots were not considered edible, Piny the Elder advised that the non-fatal but socially serious problem of garlic breath could be lessened by eating a roasted beet. The Romans make only a few references to the beet's medical prowess, but we are indebted to them for naming this bulbous root "Beta." This inedible white beet still grows wild along the Mediterranean sea coast.

By the late 16th century beets were under cultivation in Germany and were valued for the quality of their roots as well as their leaves. Somehow, between the second and 16th centuries, this tough white root became an edible red one. The first description of a red beet comes from the English naturalist, John Gerard, who grew both white and red beets. He acknowledged the Southern European heritage of the red beet by referring to it as the "Roman Beet...surnamed Sicilia." His encyclopedia of plants, "The Herbal," informs the reader that beet greens "boyled and eaten with oyle, vinegar and pepper is a most excellent and delicate sallad." As for the "red and beautiful root," he advises that it is wholesome but relegates cooking instructions to "the curious and cunning cooke...who will make many and divers dishes, both faire and good."

North American settlers had to contend with colder, longer winters than in Europe. Leafy salad greens that matured quickly were prized. Thus beets were still grown for their vitamin rich foliage. Farmers raised crops from seeds brought with them on their voyage to the New World or received from contacts in Europe. Early in the 19th century few varieties of beets were

available to North Americans.

Mangel-wurzel, a large, coarse beet from Germany was sent to Martha Washington to grow in her plantation gardens. This was the forerunner of the mangel beet used today for livestock feed. By 1821, William Cobbett wrote that beets were as common in America as carrots were in England. When beets became more popular, ingenious new uses were found for them. Ladies used the juice from a cut beet as a stain to rouge their cheeks. Gradually new varieties were introduced, including the yellow beet developed in the Languedoc region of France. By the 1880's a dozen beet varieties, including white, yellow and red, were being grown in this country.



Photo by National Garden Bureau

Beets belong to the *Chenopodaeceae* or Goosefoot family, so-called because some species have leaves that resemble the webbed shape of a goose foot. The Goosefoot family includes spinach and hundreds of other species, mostly annual and perennial herbs, all having leaves without hairs.

In addition to the common garden beet, *Beta vulgaris* includes the sugar beet grown commercially as a source of sugar and the mangel beet, grown primarily for stock feed. A close relative, *Beta vulgaris cicla* is the Swiss chard. Swiss chard lacks the thick fleshy root of the beet but has tender leaves, similar to spinach. The garden beet is characterized by its globe-shaped or tapering root and reddish-green edible leaves.

Most gardeners are familiar with the lacy flowers of a carrot gone to seed, but few have seen a beet in flower. Beet is a biennial plant. The first year of growth is devoted to the manufacture and storage of nutrients. Harvesting the tender root is the goal of growing the beet so there is no reason for us to let the plant grow on for another year, the root becomes woody as the plant flowers and produces seed. Flower lovers aren't missing much.

Beets can be classified according to their shape, use or color. There are two main shapes of beets. Most beets are globular, a shape ranging from perfectly round or top-shaped to somewhat oval. The second type is cylindrical, having a long tapered shape, somewhat like a thick carrot. In recent years the globe types have been down-sized to a mini-beet, ready for harvesting at ½ inch. The gourmet "babies" are attractive when served whole.

There are three basic ways to use the beet root; fresh, preserved such as canned or pickled, or for long term storage. There are beet cultivars bred for the fine eating quality of their leaves. Since beets are related to Swiss chard and spinach, its no wonder that their foliage is an iron rich, tasty green.

In choosing a site for beets, keep in mind that although they tolerate partial shade, they will perform best in full sun.

Beets are not a cool-weather crop like spinach and broccoli. However roots will have a deeper red color, more uniform size and sweeter taste when grown under cool temperatures. (60-65 °F). In many areas of the country this means a beet bonanza for vegetable lovers, as both spring and fall crops can be planted. If the weather becomes hot for a prolonged time, beets will have a lower sugar content and their red color may be ringed with white. Although they are tolerant to cold, plants can be damaged by frost.

In all areas, seeds may be sown as soon as the ground can be worked in spring. In southern areas, late winter is the time to sow for a spring crop and again in late summer for a fall harvest. In frost free areas, take advantage of the cool fall and winter growing season and sow from late September through February.

Beets will thrive in most well prepared soils. The ideal soil is a rich sandy loam. Heavy clay soil can stunt best growth. Quality soil can be attained by first spading the area to a depth of eight inches. If the soil is hard or clay, it is advisable for the gardener to use a raised bed. By elevating the growing area 4 to 6 inches or more, organic matter can be added to improve aeration and drainage.

Working in two inches of manure will enrich the soil. Manure must first be composted. Fresh manure may burn seeds and seedlings if it is applied directly to the soil. Dried manure can be purchased and is safe to use



Photo by National Garden Bureau

immediately.

The beet seed looks like a shrunken, withered pea. It is not a seed at all, but a dried fruit which may contain one to four or more seeds. Sow seed 1/2 to 1 inch deep and 1 inch apart. Allow at least 12 to 18 inches between rows for unimpeded foliage and root development. Cover the seed with a soilless mix or a combination of sphagnum peat moss and sand. This fine covering will make it easier for the seedling to break through. Beets will germinate in about 6 days if the soil is 68 °F. When planting very early in the spring, thinly scatter some radish or lettuce seeds along the row. These quick-to-sprout vegetables are handy markers for identifying the placement of beet seed. As the dried seed cluster opens, most of its seeds will sprout, resulting in clumps of seedlings. These groups need to be thinned when true leaves appear. Allow 2 to 3 inches between seedlings. If large beets are desired, thin again about a month later, leaving 6 inches between plants. Don't be timid about thinning; a crowded stand of beets yields a crop of small twisted roots. The thinnings do not have to go to waste because young greens make a delicious, tender spring salad.

A steady and adequate supply of water during germination and throughout the growing period is crucial for a healthy crop. Insufficient water can result in stunted greens and cracked or toughened roots. When the top 2 inches of soil are dry, it's time to water. A 2 to 3 inch layer of peat or other organic mulch will help retain water as well as deter weeds. Beets do not need heavy fertilization; a humus rich soil is better than frequent applications of fertilizer. Weeding is not labor intensive for beets. The plant's broad leaf growth will shade out most intruders

Gardeners frustrated by the lack of space to raise

vegetables will welcome the compact beet. One square yard of fertile soil can produce up to 100 beets. Even a sunny patio or balcony can be turned into a vegetable garden with the use of containers. Beets can be grown along with shallow rooted annuals for a decorative touch. The dark green leaves form a cool backdrop for bright yellow nasturtiums or blue pansies easily grown from seed.

Beets are not bothered by many pests or diseases. Prevention is the best line of defense in dealing with hostile invaders. Remove weeds, debris and infected leaves; any diseased material should not be added to the compost heap. Rotating the beet crop each year with a non-root crop will prevent any disease causing organisms from gaining a stronghold.

If beets are grown for the sake of their greens, harvest the whole plant when the leaves are about 6 inches tall. Beet roots do not have to reach a certain size to be edible. They may be lifted when they are between 1½ to 3 inches. At this stage the beets are tender and sweet; very large beets tend to become tough and woody. The key to storing beets for an extended period is to keep them in a cool, moist environment. They may be placed, not touching each other, in a box of sand or dry sphagnum peat moss. Another method of storage is to place the beets in a paper bag with a

handful of sawdust. At very cool temperatures of 32 to 35 °F. and a humidity level of 95%, beets will keep for months. Beets may be stored right in the ground if there is no danger of a freeze. All freshly harvested beets will keep in the refrigerator for a few weeks.

Beets rate high in nutrition and low in calories. The sugar content gives beets their naturally sweet taste, but a cup contains only 58 calories. The same amount gives us as much potassium as a potato. Beet greens score even higher in nutritional value. Consider a typical fast food lunch compared to beet greens. A cup of cooked beet greens has more iron than a hamburger patty, more potassium than a serving of French fries and 14 times the Vitamin A of a lettuce salad.

The easy to grow beet is also easy to prepare. Beet greens may be boiled or steamed. When cooking the beet root, leave the skin on and an inch of leaf stem so that less of the red pigment will bleed out. After cooking, cool and remove the skin before serving. Baked, steamed or boiled, beets need only a touch of butter and splash of lemon to bring out their sweetness. Cooled and dressed with a tangy vinaigrette sauce, beets make a colorful addition to green salads. To preserve the bounty, can or pickle cooked, sliced beets.

NATIONAL GARDEN BUREAU written by Diane Windisch and edited by staff.

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Richardson, Joan

WILD EDIBLE PLANTS OF NEW ENGLAND; A Field Guide

Globe Pequot Press, 1981, 217 pages, paperback, b/w illust., color photos, 9" x 6", \$9.95

A smattering of botanical knowledge would be useful, but not essential, in using this book. The first two sections contain some wise and sensible statements about finding and using wild plants, so that readers can readily understand the pros and cons of the subject. The author explains nutritional values and the disadvantages of mass-produced vegetables and fruits. reassuring about plant poisonings, and there is a section on identification and harvesting which includes a very helpful code of symbols. The text is very easy to read and packed with good information, and because it is arranged according to environment, as for example ocean and seashore, forest floor and shade, fresh water streams, lakes and marshes, it is relevant to other areas as well as New England. A useful book for students and professionals as well as amateurs.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

Toogood, Alan GARDEN ILLUSIONS

Ward Lock, London, 1991, distributed by Sterling Pub. Co., New York, 80 pages, color photographs, black and white illustrations, paperback, 8" x 8½"

It seems that magical effects can be achieved in gardens as well as in theaters. This author knows many ingenious tricks for overcoming disadvantages in gardens, and though some of his projects require a great deal of dedication and enthusiasm his book is likely to inspire creative thinking in approaching landscaping problems. His ideas on the use of mirrors, trellises and mural paintings are innovative and fascinating; even more interesting is his advice on how to deal with perspectives and focal points, and how to make use of variations of color and height. The book emphasizes urban environments. The gardens pictured in the excellent color photographs are all English and all comparatively small, but American gardeners will find

good guidance in creating screens, dramatizing views and dealing with awkward shapes. The helpful black and white drawings are diagrammatic and expository. Landscapers and horticulturalists should take a good look at this book.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

Martin, Laura C.

THE WILDFLOWER MEADOW BOOK; A Gardener's Guide. 2nd Edition

Globe Pequot Press, Chester, Ct., 1990, 320 pages, color photos, b/w illust., 9¹/₄" x 7", paperback, \$16.95 This is the second edition of a book originally published in 1986. This review is written without any opportunity to compare the two versions.

In recent years there has been an increased interest in wildflower gardening. Laura Martin's book is divided into three parts. Part 1, What Is A Meadow? tells us how to plan, plant, cultivate and enjoy a meadow, and part 2 gives us studies of seven regions of the United States. Each of these sections covers conditions to consider, meadow plants that grow there, data from projects and a list of resources. The information on resources includes lists of institutions and nurseries and a relevant bibliography. Part 3 is a straightforward catalog of plants, accompanied by an index and a book list

This is not a text book. It is obviously a labor of love and the result of much research. There are eight color plates and the text is decorated with line drawings and a neat cartoon. In addition there are many quotations, including such sources as Queen Victoria, Kahlil Gibran, St. Matthew and Rudyard Kipling. This book ought to be in many libraries, and there are a goodly number of individuals who will want to own it.

BOOK REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

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Walls, Ian G.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF THE GREENHOUSE Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York, First published in 1973, latest reprint 1991, 304 pages, 24 color photos, 70 illust., 7% x 10, paperback, \$29.95

This is a fourth edition of a book first published in great Britain in 1973. A very helpful book with lots of particulars if you are located anywhere in a frost-prone area. Tips on selection and construction are found throughout the book. Growing tips for vegetables and flowering plants can have your refrigerator full all winter long with your own fresh veggies.

BOOK REVIEW BY HARRY TOLEN

Grenfell, Diana

HOSTA: The Flowering Foliage Plant

Timber Press, Portland, OR., 1990, 240 pages, 49 color photos, 27 drawings, 71/m" x 93/m", paperback, \$39.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling

An excellent book on the Hosta. A truly unique foliage plant overlooked in Southern California. I was told "They won't grow in California, too hot!" They sent me a few plants for testing. If you like incredible foliage, and fragrant flowers, try some of these plants.. They are great for shady areas under cloth, lath or shade trees. It is not too hot here. They will do just fine if



kept to a cooler spot in your garden. Early morning sun and late afternoon sun are OK here. For the rest of the cultural techniques and different mixes used on hostas refer to this great book. Total hosta requirements, selection, potting mixes, potting, placement and growing, dividing, and repotting are included. The illustrations are a true work of art; color is used to its fullest potential. Good color photography shows the amazing contrast available in the foliage of these plants. As are most books published by Timber Press, a great value for the money.

BOOK REVIEW BY HARRY TOLEN

Webb, Colin; Johnson, Peter; Sykes, Bill FLOWERING PLANTS OF NEW ZEALAND Department of Scientific and Industrial Relations, New Zealand; U.S. Distributor, ISBS, Inc.; 1990 146 pages, many color photos, 8½" x 11", \$39.95.

Students of botany and lovers of unusual plants should find this book particularly interesting. The introduction explains plant development in New Zealand's unique environment. The text illustrates flowering plant families and species found in New Zealand, from grasses to orchids, including seagrass. Includes familiar plants, and many unusual variations.

BOOK REVIEW BY HARRY TOLEN

West, Keith

hardcover

PAINTING PLANTS PORTRAITS, A Step-by-Step Guide

Timber Press, Portland, OR; 1991

112 pages, color & b/w illust., 8½" x 11", \$32.95, hardcover

This book presents twelve plants and demonstrates each step required to produce a beautiful watercolor painting of a well-known flower. Chapters on materials and techniques will be helpful for the artist who wants to paint flowers other than the twelve chosen by the author.

This book should be especially helpful to someone who wants to experience the pleasure of painting flowers and painting with watercolors.

BOOK REVIEW BY FRANCES CLARE

Shepherd, Renee

RECIPES FROM A KITCHEN GARDEN

Shepherd's Gardening Publishing, Felton, CA; 1987 92 pages, b/w drawings, 6" x 9", \$8.95, softcover

Beautifully illustrated with pen and ink drawings, this book has interesting and different ideas for using vegetables in dishes that preserve the good flavor of the ingredients.

Recipes are listed in the index according to the vegetables used and can be easily followed.

Shepherd, Renee and Raboff, Fran RECIPES FROM A KITCHEN GARDEN, Vol. II Shepherd's Gardening Publishing, Felton, CA; 1991 92 pages, b/w drawings, 6" x 9", \$8.95, softcover

Volume II of the <u>Recipes from a Kitchen Garden</u> has recipes featuring a wide range of fresh vegetables, salads and even desserts. There are special recipes for herbs and flowers.

Like Volume I of the cookbooks, the beautiful penand-ink illustrations make this a book that would be a joy to own.

BOOK REVIEWS BY FRANCES CLARE

* * *

Gunter, Caroline GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN

Kangaroo Press, NSW; U.S. Distributor, ISBS, Inc., 1991

92 pages, 19 color photos, b/w drawings, 7¹/₄" x 9³/₄", \$19.95, hardcover

Sometimes we may forget the joy of giving and receiving those very special gifts from the gardens and efforts of friends. Caroline Gunter shares her recipes and techniques for everything from gifts of food to plants, beauty potions to hand crafted items and all are based on what can be grown in the garden. Her presentation is warm and caring, full of helpful hints and easy-to-follow illustrations. Although written for Australians, only a few references are specific to Down Under. I don't know what a choko is, but if I had some I'd definitely try her recipe. Southern Californians will be more likely to delight in new ways to use olives, lemons, figs or kumquats, not to mention more common fruits and vegetables.

BOOK REVIEW BY LUCY WARREN

Garnock, Jamie

TRELLIS - A Creative Way to Transform Your Garden

Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.; 1991, 160 pages, 190 illust. and diagrams, 60 in color, 9" x 11½", \$40.00, hardcover.

Nothing "finishes" a garden quite like a well designed trellis. It can provide both ornament and structure. This delightful book encompasses the diverse application and design of trellis forms throughout history before buckling down to the practicalities of modern application. Design, construction and installation are illustrated and described in detail. Inspirational and practical as well as visually appealing.

BOOK REVIEW BY LUCY WARREN

Goldbloom, Shelley

GARDEN SMARTS - A Bounty of Tips from America's Best Gardeners

The Globe Pequot Press, Chester, CN; 1991

320 pages, $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ ", \$12.95 + \$3 s&h fee, paperbound

You'll have fun reading *Garden Smarts*. With nearly 1,200 gardening tips from 200 amateur and professional gardeners, you're bound to find some new and helpful information in this bright and practical book. From seeds and ground to making flowers last longer, a little bit on every subject from green thumbs all around the United States.

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3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Sep-Jun, Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY

Pres: Neta Javnes 802 McDonald Road Fallbrook CA 92028-3540

619/728-8974

2nd Fri - 7:30 pm, Vista Senior Center, 222 Jefferson St, Vista

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY Pres: Mr. George Kenner

10919 Explorer Road La Mesa CA 91941-7220

619/660-0161

1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado, Balboa

ROSE EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

> Pres: Sally Long 1663 Fuerte Ranch Road El Cajon CA 92019-3730

1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY Pres: Pat Keating 1459 Lda Jolla Rancho Road La Jolla CA 92037-7435

619/459-5084

3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Oct-Jun, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES SKYLINE FINANCIAL

Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Rice 4040 Mars Way La Mesa CA 91941-7248

619/670-4010

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Changes to the Affiliate listings must be sent in writing to the Floral office by January 15, 1992 for the Mar./Apr. issue. Address changes to: Nancy Cottingham, Affiliate Editor, California Garden, Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619. Call 222-4616.

Computerization of Page Layouts by:

R. Barry Lewis Computer System Analyst 619/460-2136

SAN DIFGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION BUS TOURS

A DELICIOUS BUS TOUR - FEBRUARY 25

"IT SMELLS SO GOOD!" "It looks good enough to eat!" Exclamations like this are often heard, but rarely apply to a garden. Both will apply on February 25 as we tour - and eat - our way about Taylor's Herb Garden. Gourmets and gardeners alike will enjoy this well-known and long-established facility. who haven't visited in awhile they have added some new features that should delight us during our visit.

First, a tour of the well-tended, fragrant acres. This is a pleasant, sensory experience the first and every time. We shall participate in a workshop and cooking demonstration. Bring your own eight oz, bottle so you can carry home your personally created herbal vinegar. Also included: herbal butters and/or cheese, a bouquet garni, and an herbal seasoning that substitutes for, or enhances, table salt.

These activities culminate in a specially prepared lunch. Every dish - appetizer, salad, entree, bread, dessert - will feature herb flavors.

BUS TRIP - Taylor Herb Farm - February 25 All inclusive price: \$37 Members (who pay dues directly to SDFA) □ \$40 Non-members & members of affiliates Deadline: Feb. 10 Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association Mail to Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619. PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE. Name ZIP Address PICK-UPS ☐ Grossmont Center, La Mesa at 7:45 am. ☐ Balboa Park behind Organ Pavilion at 8:15 am. ☐ La Jolla Village Square at 8:45 am. ☐ Hadley's, Palomar Airport Road at 9:15 am. Home by 4:30 pm.

SANTA BARBARA - MARCH 25-26-27

PACK YOUR BAG, include comfortable walking shoes, an adventurous attitude, a camera, and let's go to Santa Barbara for three busy days of garden touring. We will visit the International Orchid Show, tour some unique estate gardens, and take advantage of once-a-vear open-house opportunities at commercial greenhouses. The dates are March 25-26-27, and each day promises to be filled with interesting and unusual activities including:

- * Santa Barbara Botanic Garden guided tour
- * Historic Santa Barbara walking tour with Elias Chiacos, garden writer for the Santa Barbara News-Press, including many hidden courtyard gardens
- * Lotusland and another estate garden
- * International Orchid Show
- * Tour and buy from commercial orchid growers Includes transportation, motel, continental breakfasts, two lunches, and two evening wine and cheese parties.

Free evenings to enjoy Santa Barbara cultural events or to relax

BUS TRIP - Santa Barbara - March 25-26-27 Price per person based on double occupancy. \$180 Members (who pay dues directly to SDFA) \$200 Non-members & members of affiliates \$66 extra for single occupancy I plan to share a room with I do not have a roommate but would share with a smoker on on smoker Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association Mail to Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619. PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE. Name Phone Address ZIP PICK-UPS Grossmont Center, La Mesa at 6:30 a.m. Fashion Valley, 6:45 a.m. La Jolla Village Square at 7:15 a.m. Hadley's-Palomar Airport Road at 7:45 a.m.	- 	rooms will not be available after March 1. A \$75 deposit will hold your space, balance due by March 1st. Detailed itinerary on request, 232-5762.
□ \$180 Members (who pay dues directly to SDFA) □ \$200 Non-members & members of affiliates □ \$ 66 extra for single occupancy I plan to share a room with I do not have a roommate but would share with a □ smoker □ non smoker Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association Mail to Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619. PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE. Name Phone Address ZIP PICK-UPS □ Grossmont Center, La Mesa at 6:30 a.m. □ Fashion Valley, 6:45 a.m. □ La Jolla Village Square at 7:15 a.m.	ļ	BUS TRIP - Santa Barbara - March 25-26-27
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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619 619/232-5762

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

GENERAL MEETINGS 1992

February 18, April 21 June 16, October 20 5:45 p.m. Casa del Prado, Room 101 Balboa Park, San Diego

OFFICERS

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IN AND ABOUT THIS ISSUE

WITH WINTER UPON us, our theme for this issue is bare root plants and planting. Work in the garden now, taking advantage of winter rains which we hope will arrive, prepares our gardens for the beauty of spring.

Paying close attention to the responses of our readership survey, we are including articles in which you, our members and readers, have indicated interest. We greatly appreciate your participation! Fortunately, you enjoy diversity and we have included some information on growing and caring for plants, local history, pests, some new varieties, and more.

"Now is the Time" is a favorite feature, so we have moved it to the center fold, where it will be easy to find. In response to a growing interest in native plants, Jeannine De Hart will now be telling us about seasonal care for natives. We welcome her expertise.

Assistant Editor, Lucy Warren edited this issue and she hopes you enjoy it!

GETTING TO KNOW SAN DIEGO FLORAL

Pat Kastama

THIS ISSUE OF California Garden would like you to meet two special volunteers. Marie Walsh and Kathy Walsh, mother and daughter, each with special skills that benefit our organization.

In 1990 they co-chaired our Christmas on the Prado show and did such a fantastic job that no one could be found to follow them. They graciously took over the design for 1991, beginning a new tradition of decorated Christmas trees. Affiliate involvement and participation in the lovely setting created a beautiful and successful display of local horticultural expertise and talents.

The Walshes conceptualized updating the Floral Association emblem last year. It is now available on T-shirts, totebags, and aprons at the Floral office.

Both Marie and Kathy are talented flower arrangers belonging to the San Diego Floral Association's Arrangers Guild, the North County Arrangers Guild, and many plant societies. Their awards ribbons from area flower shows (mostly blue) would paper a wall.

In 1981 Marie Walsh attended flower arranging classes sponsored by Floral and conducted by Mrs. Roland Hoyt. In 1982 she started helping, and in 1983 she'd taken the classes over. Today she includes not only flower arranging classes, but all types of basketry and botanical crafts. Marie is adept at enrolling her students as members of Floral, and we appreciate her enthusiasm.

Kathy Walsh started by helping her mother, but soon became an integral and unique part of Floral. She currently plans, cooks, and serves over sixty dinners at our general meetings, held four times a year.

Although Kathy is professionally employed as a Registered Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, she is forming a catering business. For the last few years she has honed her skills at Floral, and we will attest to her talents.

Both Marie and Kathy also serve on the SDFA Board of Directors.

PAT KASTAMA is president of the SDFA.



This is bare root season at Mission Hills Nursery.
That means we have a large selection of bare root roses and fruit treesall your favorite colors and varieties. Stop by

soon for the best selection.



MISSION HILLS NURSERY

1525 Ft. Stockton Dr. San Diego, CA 92103

295-2808

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,7 days.

Why Plant Bare Root?

There are many advantages to planting bare root plants over container grown material.

BARE ROOT ROSES

AND FRUIT TREES!

Price.

Bare root plants can be shipped at a lower cost than container plants. This means lower costs to you.

Convenience.

Bare root varieties are generally easier to plant than container grown plant material.

Reduced Plant Stress.

Putting plants in the ground when they are basically still in their dormant stage also means the plant will not undergo as much stress.

Choose plants with as many roots as possible, and be sure roots are light colored and pliable. Plants should be pruned back before planting so they won't topple before the roots become established. For additional information on planting bare root or on what varieties are best suited to your area, ask one of our knowledgeable sales people.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 084-240)
San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619, USA

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